

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe



August 2021



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tim Keown

August has been a fulfilling month on campus. We were fortunate to double the enrollment for this year. These buildings have sprung to life with 31 returning students and 30 brand new students! We have now welcomed students from all four regions of South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. Our faculty and staff have wasted no time planning amazing classroom experiences, field trips, after-school events, and practicing for upcoming Fall livestock shows. Our Aggies are engaged from the start of their day, until the end of their day.

Our calf show barn renovation is complete and it is now full of our students' show heifers. Students are working with their animals every day after school, getting them show-ring ready! We have hired a new Shotgun Team Coach, **Mark Blankenship**. Coach Blankenship is an avid shooter and has competed in shotgun events across the country. His daughter was a competitive shooter for Clemson University where he also served as an Assistant Coach. We are now in the process of creating a High School competitive BASS fishing team.

IN THIS ISSUE

Move-In Weekend | Page 4

SC State University Visit | Page 5

Tractor Donation with Rep. Haddon | Page 7

Renovations to our campus are ongoing. We plan to renovate the final three residence halls this coming year along with de la Howe Hall. These expansions will allow us to house more students and expand our class offerings by creating more class space. With our current living space, we can house approximately 70 students and once all renovations are complete, we will max out at 95 students next Fall. Our maintenance staff is working hard on other projects such as the removal of several dangerous trees on campus, designing and building a 5-stand shooting course for our shotgun team, and daily campus maintenance issues.

Parents, thank you for entrusting us with your most precious gift. We do not take our jobs lightly. We all take constructive criticism very well. If you have any suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at Timothy.Keown@delahowe.sc.gov.



PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Gregory Thompson

Growing up, my parents had my brother, two sisters, and I involved in several extracurricular activities. I played a variety of sports and specialized in several musical instruments. I was the jack of all trades and the master of none. Out of all the sports I participated in, I was *not* a good baseball player.

I had a better chance of my number hitting the million-dollar lottery than me hitting a baseball. I just *wasn't* a good player. Still, I enjoyed being on the team. I was what I call a sandwich eater. I cheered on my teammates from the bench, and I looked forward to the snacks after the game.

In some way, I was fortunate. Since this was a recreation team, I played in every game. *Everybody* had to play at least one inning in the field. I had one opportunity every game. I didn't blame him, but my coach put me in the game when I could do the least damage. He didn't expect much from me and I didn't expect much from myself either. I was satisfied with just being a sandwich eater.

One game during the season, something happened that changed my life forever. Several of our starters on the team missed a game because they were on a family vacation. So, I found myself in the starting lineup. I really wanted to play well, so I wouldn't let my teammates down. My older brother was in town from college, and he brought me to the game. My first time at the plate, the bases were loaded and there were two outs. I struck out on three pitches. I swung late at a fastball. Straight down the middle, I didn't swing at a curveball that landed right across the plate and I swung at a pitch above my shoulders. I never stepped out of the batter's box and the umpire didn't even have to clean the plate for the next batter.

My second time at the plate I produced the same results by striking and spoiling another rally my teammates had started. On my third time, two men were on the base and it was the last inning. We were down by two runs with two outs. I was hoping my teammate that batted before me would strike out so I wouldn't have to bat, but he hit a single right up the middle just above the pitcher's head. Before I entered the batter's box, I took a deep breath and said, "I can do this." As I entered the batter's box, the opposing team all yelled, "Easy out, he can't hit!" All my little confidence that I built up vanished. I struck out in four pitches. I retreated to our dugout with my head down and totally defeated. I let my teammates down and, most importantly, I let myself down.

My brother talked to me after the game. He told me that he knew that I was going to strike out *every* time I stepped into the batter's box because of my body language. By my stance alone, I was telling the whole world I'd miss the ball every time. When we got home, we didn't have to have batting practice, but we did. My brother and I started developing a batting routine and began creating a vision of hitting the baseball.



The next few nights, I watched the professional baseball players on the TV. I observed all their batting routines in order to mimic their technique. I practiced stepping out of the batter's box and going through the motions with my bat in hand. I copied everything from the point of their toes to the twists of their wrists. Over and over again, I did this until I had made my arms sore and heavy.

In the next game, all the starters were back. I was, again, relegated to being a sandwich eater. I knew I was back to playing only one inning. Eventually, it was my time to hit. Before I came out, I decided to copy Reggie Jackson's batting routine. Reggie Jackson was the star player for the New York Yankees and the homerun king during the '70s. If his technique could win for him, I didn't see why it couldn't win for me. I grabbed some red dirt and rubbed it into my hand. I glanced at the pitcher on the way to the batter's box and took a few practice swings. Stepping up into the batter's box with a sense of confidence, I had a clear vision. Channeling my inner Reggie Jackson, I took a deep breath and waited for the ball. Almost in slow motion, I saw it come right at me. My hands moved of their own accord like muscle memory. On the first pitch, I heard the most *unusual* sound.

The bat and the baseball had actually made contact. Who would have thought? I dropped the bat and looked at the baseball as if I had hit a home run at Yankee Stadium. Of course, the ball barely went over the pitcher's head and went into center field. That was all right with me. I was still ten feet tall and counting. To get me to run to first base, poor coaches had to scream. I was so shocked and elated I almost didn't want to move. Almost. I took off soon after, daring anyone to follow that miracle shot. In my head, I knew no one could top it.

After the game, I couldn't stand any taller. I was proud of myself and best of all, I was proud of my hard work. Finally, I had a chance to calculate my batting average. I batted a whopping .111 but, I was on the books. I was there. I finished the season with a few more hits and I struck out a few more times, but I went down fighting. I always gave it my best shot. I'd given myself the drive to try. As a reminder of that day, oddly enough, I keep a bat everywhere I go. Walk into my home (tucked proudly into my man cave), you'll find it on display.

Catch me in my office, and you'll find a bat ready and waiting. My "Think Bat" - and all the iterations after it - has followed me from every edge of Georgia and back down into South Carolina a multitude of times. Maybe it's not the bat itself that gives me inspiration and confidence, but the memory that stems from it. The memory stands as a testament to my hard work and the things I demanded of myself. It sits there, half tattered with age, as a vision board--a list of standards. It's confidence. It's vision.

*Life is a
chance at
the plate.*

- MR. THOMPSON

This confidence and vision carried me through all aspects of my life. It forced me into acknowledging the truth: life is a chance at the plate. Life will throw you a fastball straight down the middle or a curveball that you were not expecting. Having a clear vision and a little confidence will prepare you for all life has to throw at you. If you haven't set a goal for yourself, please don't waste another minute. Start now. Start here. Setting goals is the gateway to not striking out. Setting goals is working your hands to the bone to get it right. Setting goals is hitting a home run.



MOVE-IN WEEKEND

61 students moved into their residence halls on August 14th with the help of their friends and family. The weekend was filled with informational sessions, tablet hand-outs, and getting to know each other. The school year was kicked off on August 16th!

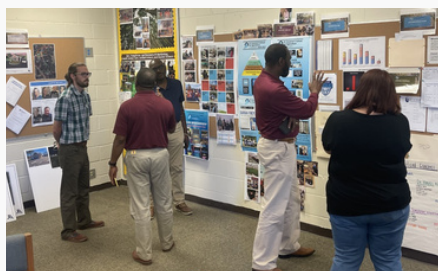
From the Index-Journal: **Tim Keown**, president of the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe said the first day of school has gone *"much smoother than last year."* And move-in over the weekend was seamless because of planning by the staff, he said. *"Our returning students are extremely helpful with the transition of our new students,"* Keown said. Keown said the students and staff are looking forward to *"the FFA, and 4-H competitions and livestock shows this Fall,"* as well as a competitive BASS fishing being added this year.





SC STATE UNIVERSITY VISIT

Representatives from **SC State University** visited our campus on August 20th to discuss a partnership with both school's programs and student recruitment efforts. Thank you to **Dr. Louis Whitesides**, Vice President and Director of 1890 Extension Land Grant Programs, **Edoe Agbodjan**, Associate Extension Administrator, **Lamin Drammeh**, Director of Strategic Initiative Evaluation and Engagement, **Curtis Hill**, Ag. Extension Agent for the Piedmont Region, and **James Douglas**, Operation Support Staff for the visit. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements about this partnership agreement!



BOB EDMONDS CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP

Thank you to the **McCormick Soil & Water Conservation District** for the creation of the **Bob Edmonds Conservation Scholarship**! Handled through our School's Foundation, this scholarship will provide \$4,000 annually to four outstanding high school students enrolled here at the SC Governor's School for Agriculture. The scholarship honors Bob Edmonds for his considerable service on the conservation board since 1980.





CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL FFA CHAPTER VISIT

Thank you to the **Clinton High School FFA Chapter** for visiting our campus on August 5th! We hope you enjoyed touring our facilities and learning more about the SC Governor's School for Agriculture.

Book a Campus Tour, visit our website here:

<https://delahowe.sc.gov/admissions/campus-tours>



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Congratulations to the following students on their recent college acceptances! We are so proud of your accomplishments here at JDLH and beyond.



Grayson Chassereau

Mississippi State University



William Huffman

South Georgia State College



Allyson Wright

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College



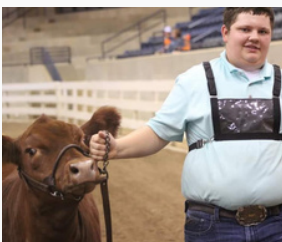
TRACTOR DONATION

Representative Patrick Haddon was able to secure a John Deere 2950 tractor from the **South Carolina Department of Natural Resources** using an inter-agency transfer. Our students immediately went to work with it to finish baling more square hay for their livestock. Thank you Rep. Haddon for your assistance and for the delivery of the tractor to our campus!



SC JUNIOR BEEF ROUND-UP

On August 7th and 8th, several of our students participated in the **SC Junior Beef Round-Up** alongside our Agricultural Education Teacher, **Libby Templeton**. Congratulations to the following students on all of your winnings at this event: **Anna Grace Cross, Christian Fehr, Trey Haddon, Austin Landreth, Jaquez Perry, and Jake Simpson**. Way to go, Aggies!





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It was a bittersweet moment watching all of our young men and women prepare for the final year here.

-Dr. Stacy Platt, English Teacher

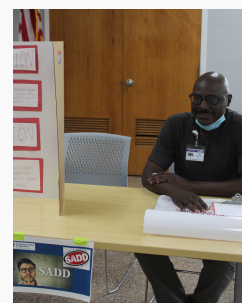
SENIOR PORTRAITS

August 24th was a special day for our Seniors as they took their Senior Portraits. The Class of 2022 will be the first group of graduates for the SC Governor's School for Agriculture! On this day, underclassmen, faculty, and staff also took pictures for this year's yearbook.



CLUB & TEAM DAY

We held our annual Club & Team Day sign-up on August 27th! Students met in the Cafeteria to talk to their sponsors and coaches and signed up for clubs of their choice. In addition to our agriculturally-focused organizations and teams, we offer activities like History Club, Astronomy Club, Yearbook/Journalism, and more!





ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

The SC Governor's School for Agriculture is committed to creating an environment that encourages different opportunities in the agricultural industry. Animals are an important factor in the industry and provide an excellent opportunity for environmental learning at the School. Students are encouraged to show animals and allowed to bring their own animals. *The animal must serve a purpose within the agricultural industry or be a part of a show team.* Our Animal Policy can be found on our website.



Kyle Gilreath



John Chandler



Kyleigh Banks-Adams



Marion Hollingsworth



Hadleigh Corcoran



Caroline Jordan



Brooke Grondski



Lauren Locklair



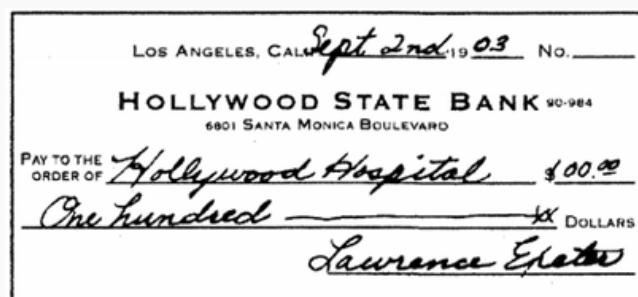
ENGLISH

Dr. Stacy Platt

American Literature students created their own creation or origin myths based on Native American Myths we read in class. Students are also learning about the first colonies, Puritans, and the people who started our country.

British Literature students are reading and analyzing "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight." We have discussed chivalry and what the knights' code of conduct included. We are preparing for Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales."

Dual Enrollment students completed their Narrative essays. Students also started their novel, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. We have already had some good discussions about it.



World Literature students are reading Wiesel's *Night*. We have discussed the Holocaust, the purpose of concentration camps, and how prisoners in those camps survived. We also read the short story, "Ordeal by Cheque," a story written completely in the form of bank checks. Students had to play detective and figure out what was happening in the story just by the information given in a bank check. Every group's review of the story comes out different!



CHEMISTRY

Jordan Glace

Students are completing an introductory unit to become more familiar with laboratory safety and equipment. Students completed a Lab Safety and Techniques lab during which they safely used different types of equipment to take measurements and gather data.



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Troy Cann

PE 1 class has been participating in an indoor games unit which includes pool (billiards) and table tennis. They are starting an introduction to Outdoor Recreation this week with our first lesson being on canoeing.

Outdoor Recreation has started their second unit on canoeing after finishing their teamwork and bonding-focused low ropes unit.



CLEMSON UNIVERSITY LIVESTOCK POULTRY HEALTH

Libby Templeton

Dr. Julie Helm and **Ms. Courtney** from **Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health** visited our campus on August 31st to blood test the FFA/4-H project birds in my Animal Science class. Also, **Mrs. Jaime Pohlman**, our McCormick County Extension Agent, assisted. Thank you all for your help!





WIDELIFE ADVENTURES

Hunter Morton

On August 27th, students began prepping for our **Take One Make One Hunt** through the **SC Department of Natural Resources**. They even ran into a copperhead, true learning in the field! The TOMO Hunt will be held on our campus on September 11th.

GAME NIGHT

Jennifer Brown

As a Welcome Back to Campus, the Library hosted a Game Night on August 20th!





KARAOKE NIGHT

Jennifer Brown

On August 22nd, students joined us for our first Library Karaoke Night. Our Aggies put on quite a show!



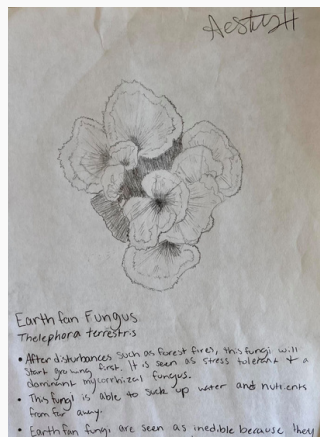
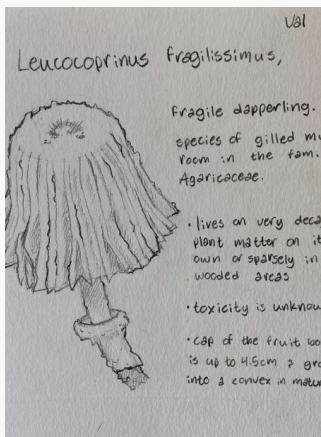


STUDENT HIKE

Jennifer Brown

The Library helped coordinate a student hike through a small part of the 100-acre tract on our campus that has not been cut since the late 1700s – not even for firewood.

Students identified plants and insects all while learning about the uniqueness of the ancient hardwood forest. Our Social Studies teacher, Science teacher, and School Resource Officer all contributed to the experience by sharing their knowledge of the environment.



After the hike, students identified and sketched an item of their choice.

Sketches above are from students Valeria Vazquez and Aestas Hodge





REAL WORLD

Jennifer Brown & Jordan Glace

Our **Real World** Class for seniors is all about cross-discipline instruction. The Library co-hosts the class with our Chemistry teacher. The first week's focus was on communication and teamwork. Students practiced collaboration before traveling to Mastermind Escape Games in Evans, GA. The students worked in teams to solve the puzzles and all successfully "escaped!"

Students in this class are also learning cooking skills and healthy eating habits. Thanks to Nutrition Educator, **Brandi Anderson**, with Clemson Extension Agency for working with our students! So far, they have made stir fry, omelets, and breakfast sandwiches. They are developing important life skills while enjoying the learning process!





ADMISSIONS & OUTREACH

Cadie Giba

The SC Governor's School for Agriculture enjoyed visiting schools in Orangeburg, Dorchester, and Charleston County on August 31st and September 1st! On our stop, we visited the **East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies** in Mount Pleasant, SC.

East Cooper CAS serves students from **Lucy Beckham High School** and **Wando High School**. The program's mission is to bridge the gap between high school and college by providing training and technical skills.

During our visit, we met with **Mrs. Peyton Schultz** and students in her Horticulture Entrepreneur Program. We received a tour of the 3-story building that included a Fab Lab and a sustainable rooftop garden.



SPEAK TO AN ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVE

We are excited to offer several options to showcase our campus and show you what makes the Aggie experience unique.

Speak with an admissions representative to:

- Schedule a campus tour
- Schedule a classroom presentation (*Virtual or In-Person*)
- Schedule a shadow day with one of our students
- Schedule a speaker for a community event (*Virtual or In-Person*)

Admission Applications for the 2022-2023 school year open on September 15th!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Campus Preview Day

Friday, September 24th | 10 AM – 1 PM

RSVP: bit.ly/3gfTe7i

Additional tours offered on Saturday, September 25th

Howe-lloween Festival

Sunday, October 24th | 4:00 PM

We are looking for vendors - food, crafts, merchants, etc.

For more information and the vendor application, visit <https://bit.ly/3ndM9ZL>.



The Education Center AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

Kinsley Miller



The McCormick County Livestock Association and Clemson Extension are sponsoring a small ruminant management program that will cover the basics for raising small ruminants successfully in our area. There will be a hands-on demonstration outside.

Speaker: Lindsey Craig, Livestock and Forage Area Agent

If you plan to attend, please call the McCormick County Extension office (864-852-3259) by 12:00 noon Friday, Sept. 10th. Follow the prompts and tell which meeting you are registering for, and who will be attending.

Sept. 14th, 2021
Starts at 6:00 pm
School Cafeteria
with meal
South Carolina
Governor's
School for
Agriculture at
John de la
Howe
192 Gettys Road
McCormick, SC 29835
(Entrance is 9 miles
north of McCormick
on Hwy 81
Meal Cost: \$6.00
Small fee request special
accommodations due to a disability,
please notify our office 7 days prior to
the event.



BASICS OF SMALL RUMINANT MANAGEMENT

Interested in learning about small ruminant management? We are excited to host the **McCormick County Livestock Association** and **Clemson Extension** for a program covering the basics of raising small ruminants on **September 14th!** If you'd like to attend, notify the McCormick County Extension Office (864-852-3259).

**The Education Center
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE**

BURLAP WREATH Workshop

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 • 10:00 AM
COST: \$50 • MAX PARTICIPANTS: 20
ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED.
To RSVP, email Kinsley.Miller@delahowe.sc.gov

Special Guest
Kyle Fuller, owner of **Divine Your Space**, an urban home and garden boutique located in the small town of **Abbeville, SC**.

BURLAP WREATH WORKSHOP

After a summer full of camps, the Education Center is excited to start planning workshops for the Fall and Spring! Our first workshop will be a **Burlap Wreath Workshop** on **Saturday, October 2nd**. Our guest instructor will be **Kyle Fuller**, owner of **Divine Your Space** in Abbeville, SC!

We will begin at 10:00 am and should be done in about 2 hours. The cost is \$50/person, and all materials will be provided.

The objective of this program is to provide law enforcement and state agency personnel basic training needed to make sound decisions regarding generally accepted livestock production practices. This program offers classroom and hands-on instruction on common livestock species and production practices specific to the Southeastern region.

Registration: Attendees can register through the UGA Center for Urban Agriculture at: <https://livestockleo1005.eventbrite.com>

Registration Fee: \$100 for all participants regardless of affiliation. The class is limited to the first 25 registrants.

Accommodations: Participants are responsible for making their own accommodations. Limited space is available at De La Howe. First come first serve; contact Kinsley Miller at (864) 391-0614 for more information. The closest chain hotels (avg \$120/night) are in Greenwood, SC, approximately a 35 minute drive from McCormick.

CONTACT US
Bobbie Stewart, MS
Livestock County
UGA Extension
706-338-5225
bste2@uga.edu

Dr. Carless Wickens
UGA Center for
Animal Sciences
335-380-1971
cwickens@uga.edu

**LIVESTOCK
WELFARE
ASSESSMENT
SKILLS
FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

October 5-7th, 2021
SC Governor's School for Agriculture
at John De La Howe
192 Gettys Rd
McCormick, SC 29835

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION**
UF IFAS Extension
FLORIDA FARM BUREAU

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action,
Veterans, Disability Institution

LIVESTOCK WELFARE ASSESSMENT SKILLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

This program, held on **October 5-7th**, is provided by the **University of Georgia Extension**, **University of Florida IFAS Extension**, and the **Florida Farm Bureau**. Attendees can register through the UGA Center for Urban Agriculture at <https://livestockleo1005.eventbrite.com>.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe



August 2021

CAMPUS CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Foundation BOD Meeting	3	4
5	6 State Holiday	7	8	9	10 BOT Meeting Howe-Halloween Vendor Applications Due	11 SCDNR TOMO Hunt
12	13	14 Basics of Small Ruminant Management	15 2022-2023 Admissions Applications Open	16	17	18 AKC Pointing Dog Seminar →
19 →	20	21	22 SC State University Event (TBA)	23	24 Campus Preview Day	25 Abbeville Boy Scout Troops →
26 →	27	28	29	30	OCTOBER 1 Early Release Day	2 Burlap Wreath Workshop American Field Training Seminar



SC Governor's School
for Agriculture
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

CAMPUS PREVIEW DAY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 • 10 AM - 1 PM





SC Governor's School
for Agriculture
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

AKC Pointing Breeds Hunt Test & Hunt Test Gunner Seminar

Topics

- How to Prepare for an AKC Hunt Test
- Hunt Test Rules
- Aspects of Handling a Dog in a Hunt Test
- Being a Brace Mate
- Do's and Don'ts with Requirements
- Pointers Needed to be Successful
- Roles & Responsibilities of AKC Handlers & Gunners
- Requirements Needed
- How to Position Your Gunners
- Safety of When and When Not to Shoot
- Types of Shotguns Allowed
- Types of Ammo Allowed
- Shotgun Target Practice on Targets and Birds
- Gunning for a Hunt Test



A 2-Day
Seminar



\$160 person
with one dog
\$85 person
without a dog
Spouses are free to join
and lunch is included

Saturday
September 18 – **Sunday**
September 19, 2021

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
at the South Carolina
Governor's School for Agriculture
192 Gettys Road
McCormick, SC 29835

Speaker & Instructor:
Trainer, Handler, Hunting Guide, AKC
Pointing Breed Hunt Test Judge,
Certified Hunter Education Instructor, and
NRA Certified Shooting Instructor

Randy Hall

Accommodations: Hickory Knob State Park

RSVP by September 6, 2021 to Hunter Morton
Hunter.Morton@delahowe.sc.gov or (864) 280-5746

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**SC Governor's School
for Agriculture**
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE



South Carolina Governor's School
for Agriculture at John de la Howe



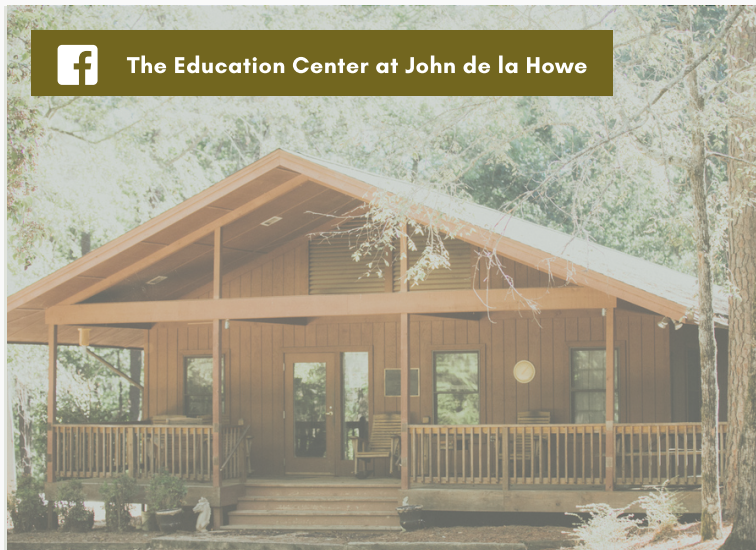
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The Education Center at John de la Howe



@jdlh_admissions



South Carolina Governor's
School for Agriculture Library



Governor's School FFA & 4-H



@jdlh_ffa_4h



South Carolina's Governor's
School for Agriculture Field
Trial Team